

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A bullsnap fastener comprising:

a rigid elongate member having a mid-section,

a hook having a shank and a curved distal end, said hook extending from a first end of said mid-section so as to define a hook space between said shank and said distal end, and an opening between said distal end of said hook and said first end of said mid-section, an eye extending from a second end of said mid-section generally opposite said first end,

a rigid gate member pivotally mounted to said mid-section and lying substantially in a plane containing said hook so as to be pivotable between a closed position, wherein an end surface of said gate blocks said opening and closes off said hook space, said end surface extending from said opening to said shank of said hook, generally orthogonally relative to said shank so as to extend across said hook space, and an open position wherein said gate has been pivoted outwardly of said opening, away from said hook, so as to unblock said opening allowing access to said hook space, whereby in said closed position an object in said hook space pressing against said end surface will not urge said gate into said open position against the return biasing force of a resilient biasing means mounted in said mid-section for resiliently biasing said gate from said open position into said closed position,

at least one grip-enhancing member protruding outwardly of said gate.

2. (original) The fastener of claim 1 wherein said grip-enhancing member is a rigid lever extending in said plane outwardly from said gate, oppositely disposed relative to said end surface of said gate, so as to extend cantilevered outwardly of said gate and said distal end of said hook when said gate is in said closed position.
3. (original) The fastener of claim 2 wherein said lever is nose-shaped.

4. (original) The fastener of claim 3 further comprising grip-enhancing striations formed on an outer surface of said lever.
5. (original) The fastener of claim 1 wherein said grip-enhancing member is a member extending from said gate generally orthogonally outwardly of said plane.
6. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 5 wherein said grip enhancing member is a rigid pin extending through said gate so as to protrude opposite ends of said pin equally from opposite sides of said gate.
7. (currently amended) The fastener of claim 5 wherein said grip enhancing member includes at least one wing-shaped protrusion extending from sides of said gates.
8. (original) The fastener of claim 7 wherein said at least one wing-shaped protrusion is a pair of wing-shaped protrusions mounted in oppositely disposed array on opposite sides of said gate.
9. (new claim) A bullsnap fastener comprising:

a rigid elongate member having a mid-section,

a hook having a shank and a curved distal end, said hook extending from a first end of said mid-section so as to define a hook space between said shank and said distal end, and an opening between said distal end of said hook and said first end of said mid-section, an eye extending from a second end of said mid-section generally opposite said first end,

a rigid gate member pivotally mounted on a pivot to said mid-section and lying substantially in a plane containing said hook so as to be pivotable between a closed position, wherein an end surface on a distal end of said gate blocks said opening and closes off said hook space, said end surface extending from said opening to said shank of said hook, and an open position wherein said gate has been pivoted outwardly of said

opening, away from said hook, so as to unblock said opening allowing access to said hook space,

resilient biasing means mounted in said mid-section for resiliently biasing said gate from said open position into said closed position,

at least one grip-enhancing member protruding outwardly of said gate and mounted to said gate adjacent said end surface between said end surface and said pivot,

and wherein said gate does not extend substantially beyond said pivot oppositely from said distal end of said gate.

10. (new claim) The fastener of claim 9 wherein said grip-enhancing member is a rigid lever extending in said plane outwardly from said gate, oppositely disposed relative to said end surface of said gate, so as to extend cantilevered outwardly of said gate and said distal end of said hook when said gate is in said closed position.
11. (new claim) The fastener of claim 10 wherein said lever is nose-shaped.
12. (new claim) The fastener of claim 11 further comprising grip-enhancing striations formed on an outer surface of said lever.
13. (new claim) The fastener of claim 9 wherein said grip-enhancing member is a member extending from said gate generally orthogonally outwardly of said plane.
14. (new claim) The fastener of claim 13 wherein said grip enhancing member is a rigid pin extending through said gate so as to protrude opposite ends of said pin equally from opposite sides of said gate.
15. (new claim) The fastener of claim 13 wherein said grip enhancing member includes at least one wing-shaped protrusion extending from sides of said gates.

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16. (new claim) The fastener of claim 15 wherein said at least one wing-shaped protrusion is a pair of wing-shaped protrusions mounted in oppositely disposed array on opposite sides of said gate.